



## **DWRLF – Capacity Development**

The result of reducing staff or funding of this activity would be reducing the number of loans made to public water systems (pws) because the Federal Capitalization Grant will be reduced by 20%. This could result in fewer infrastructure improvements which would lead to more water contamination. Water contamination could lead to illness and disease in humans consuming it as well as increased costs to the government providing emergency water delivery and medical services. If funding was increased, it could be expanded to include more assistance for water systems' personnel.

### **Objective**

To provide public water systems with the tools and financial assistance they need to obtain and maintain the technical, financial, and managerial capacity needed to ensure a supply of safe drinking water for Louisiana citizens.

### **Performance Indicators**

1. Number of systems assisted.
2. Number of average days for business plan review.
3. Number of training sessions provided
4. Number of water systems in non-compliance with Federal and State regulations.

### **Narrative**

The Drinking Water Revolving Loan Fund (DWRLF) – Capacity Development (CD) mission is to improve the public health of Louisiana citizens by assisting public water systems with delivering safe and affordable drinking water. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funds the CD program with an annual capitalization grant. State dollars are NOT utilized by the CD program. The CD program identifies the technical, financial, and managerial impediments confronted by water systems in their efforts to provide safe and sustainable drinking water. After identifying the impediments we are able to more appropriately determine and accomplish solutions to capacity problems. Such solutions include technical or financial assistance or encouragement of consolidation, collaboration, regionalization, and contract operations and maintenance cooperatives.

## **Better Health**

Drinking water is necessary to sustain human life. There are no demographic boundaries—every human needs safe drinking water for survival.

The direct customers of the CD Program are Louisiana public water systems. The ownership of these systems can be governmental entities, non-profit corporations, and for-profit corporations. The decision makers for these entities have ultimate responsibility for providing safe drinking water to their constituents—Louisiana citizens.

The DWRLF utilizes only Federal Dollars for the CD program. No state general fund moneys are used. We provide training, advice, and on-site assistance through staff and contractors to the decision-makers of water systems. The principals of asset management and utilization of cost-effective technologies are encouraged for better management; the principals of full-cost pricing are promoted for Sustainable Infrastructure; the principals of conservation and improved building and landscaping practices are encouraged for Water efficiency; and principals of source water protection are encouraged for Watershed Approach. These principals comprise the “4 Pillars” for sustaining our nation’s infrastructure.

### **1. Economic Development:**

- The DWRLF CD program provides communities with a method to evaluate their water systems and improve them which provides them with an attractive location to pursue and market business development efforts in a proactive manner and attract businesses to the state.
- The DWRLF CD program promotes long-term capital improvements planning and capital asset management for public water systems which demonstrates their forward thinking and commitment to their communities which attracts new businesses.

### **2. Hurricane Protection and Emergency Preparedness:**

- The DWRLF CD program provides assistance to water system decision makers which:
  - Promotes self reliance and disaster independence at the local level.
  - Promotes interagency partnerships and leverages existing resources and information.
  - Minimizes risk and protects property, life and environment.
  - Enhances the professionalism, readiness and response capabilities of local water system officials.
  - Improves the coordination and maximizes the use of available resources to achieve risk reduction and resiliency.
  - Improves and expedites the recovery process.

**3. Social Services:**

- The DWRLF CD program provides water system decision-makers information which allows them to keep customer water rates low; thus allowing families to meet their basic needs through increased economic security.
- The DWRLF CD program promotes the use of water meters which promotes equitable allocation of costs – everyone pays for what they use.

**4. Natural Resources:**

- The DWRLF loan program gives communities information that helps them keep their systems in compliance with Federal and State Drinking Water Regulations which supports and contributes to a healthy environment
- The DWRLF CD program encourages consolidation or regionalization of water systems which result in sustainable and abundant renewable natural resources
- The DWRLF CD program promotes “ownership” of water systems through capital asset management and best management practices which encourages water conservation.
- The DWRLF CD program enhance the state’s economy through management of renewable natural resources – drinking water
- The DWRLF CD program encourages systems to be metered which promotes water conservation.

**5. Education:**

- The DWRLF CD program educates the water system decision makers which promotes their involvement in the schools to educate children about the importance of safe drinking water.

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Louisiana RS 40:2821-2826, LRS 36:254.1, **LRS 40:4(A) (8) (b)**

1. Current Economic condition—dwindling resources means need for doing more with less.
2. There is a dwindling supply of uncontaminated raw water sources which are economically feasible to use for drinking water.
3. Reduced state dollars means reduced capital outlay—need for alternatives.
4. Need Survey (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/needssurvey/index.html>)
5. Reduced violations of primary and secondary standards
6. Reduced Significant Non-Compliers (List maintained by EPA)